



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2782 SD2 HD1, Proposed HD2
Relating to Environmental Protection

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

April 2, 2012

4:00 pm, Room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee, thank you for hearing Senate Bill 2782, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Proposed House Draft 2, Relating to Environmental Protection. I strongly support Part I of the Proposed Draft, which appropriates funds for watershed protection and respectfully request your support.

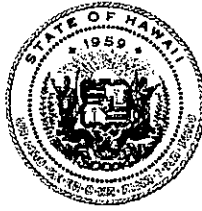
In the last 40 years, the State of Hawaii has managed to protect only 10 percent of its priority watershed areas. Water is the basis of all life on our islands. Without it, our forests will die, our streams will disappear and the variety of ecosystems that our watersheds support will be irrevocably changed. Our lives depend on water.

To protect our lands and all that depend on it, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has developed an action plan to double the amount of protected priority watershed areas in the next 10 years. This plan, called *The Rain Follows the Forest*, will help stabilize our water source in Hawaii by providing for the necessary stewardship of our islands.

This is not unrealistic. We can achieve this goal given adequate resources. I am committed to working with the Legislature on finding creative ways to fund this plan, for the coming fiscal year and into the future. By protecting our water supply, we will also protect our forests, prevent erosion and muddy beaches, protect our native plants and animals, provide capability for food sustainability, and promote the resiliency of our island chain.

Mahalo again for your consideration of this appropriation.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, April 3, 2012
4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2782, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1,
PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Senate Bill 2782, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Proposed House Draft 2 proposes to: 1) Appropriate unspecified funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health in PART I; 2) Statutorily establish the Division of Aquatic Resources within the Department in PART II; and 3) Appropriate unspecified funds for the establishment of an emergency environmental workforce to provide short-term employment for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed due to slow economic recovery by assisting the State's efforts to protect watersheds and eradicate invasive species in PART III. The Department strongly supports PART I, does not oppose PART II, and has serious concerns about unintended opportunity costs and thus respectfully opposes PART III of this measure.

PART I

Fortunately there are cost-effective and long-term solutions to reverse the trend of forest degradation. The Department's Watershed Program supports public-private partnerships to leverage state funds and provide a diverse range of local jobs. However, funding for these efforts is not sufficient and forest losses continue. In 2000, the State legislature directed the Department to identify additional funding sources to protect Hawaii's watershed forests. But a decade later, the only dedicated funding source for watershed partnerships is the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund (NAR Fund), which receives a percentage of the State Conveyance Tax from the sale of real property. With recent cuts to state general funds, a variety of natural resource programs have increasingly relied on the NAR Fund. This has significantly compromised the funds allocated to watershed protection. In Fiscal Year 2011, 11 partnerships split \$1.25 million, and the five island-based committees that control invasive species and contribute to watershed protection have no authorized dedicated funding whatsoever. Their

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

general fund allocation was eliminated, and they now receive annual legislative allocations from the NAR Fund. In recent years, the NAR Fund has become the funding source for a variety of worthy natural resource programs. But its capacity is stretched to the limit as it is carved up into smaller and smaller shares. While watershed partnerships have typically been able to leverage dedicated state funds with at least 1:1 matching funds, declining state revenues have reduced their ability to find matching contributions. This significantly compromises their ability to protect and maintain priority watershed areas into the future.

An October 2011 statewide poll demonstrated Hawaii's residents' willingness to support increased funding of watershed protection. In addition to a high rating of urgency to protect upland forests for water supplies, 78% of respondents were supportive of increasing funding of watershed protection from \$1 million to \$11 million. When respondents were presented with various means by which the increased funds could be raised, a majority supported increases in general funds (7.4 out of 10, with 10 indicating "Strong Support"). These results suggest that the public recognizes the immediate need for government to significantly increase investments in watershed protection.

This measure implements the central natural resource stewardship goals of the Abercrombie Administration. This critical appropriation provides a jump start for the Department's *The Rain Follows the Forest* plan (available online at <http://Hawaii.gov/dlnr/rain>) to implement on-the-ground actions needed to stabilize Hawaii's water sources. Projects are ready in each county to begin reaching job creation and accomplishment targets. Funds would be allocated in a statewide competitive process to maximize effectiveness and accountability.

Forests are essential to provide water at affordable rates. Hawaii's native forests absorb moisture from rainfall and passing clouds that condense on the thick vegetation and can increase groundwater supply by up to 50%. However, over half of forests have already been lost to invasive species, causing extensive water loss across landscapes. Even a small percentage reduction in groundwater recharge can cost millions per year in increased pumping to transport water for human use. When groundwater levels decline to a point that they cannot be pumped, expensive alternative water sources are needed - long transport pipes, new wells, and even desalination plants. Clearly, our forests are enormous economic assets. Just as clearly, their degradation is ongoing and accelerating. The longer Hawai'i waits to take significant action to halt this destruction, the higher the costs will be to reverse the damage and ensure our future water supply for current and future generations.

In addition to increasing fresh water supplies, the protection of forests prevents erosion that muddies beaches, coral reefs, and fisheries. Forests reduce Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate many damaging impacts from climate change. Protection sustains the native plants and animals unique to our islands and sacred to the Hawaiian culture.

~~An appropriation to fund this Program is a responsible measure to provide immediate action to ensure wide-ranging benefits essential to Hawaii's environmental and economic health for current and future generations.~~

The Department respectfully asks that this measure be amended to change \$5,000,000 to \$11,000,000 in line 2, page 4 of this measure. \$11,000,000 is the dollar amount that is cited in "The Rain Follows the Forest" plan. Additionally, the Department provides the following

amendments to recognize that watershed protection provides public benefits beyond property boundaries by replenishing groundwater supplies that all of Hawaii relies on. While some private landowners with philanthropic missions provide matching funds for watershed protection, in many cases, private landowners do not have economic incentives to pay for watershed protection actions such as installing critical firebreaks, or removing invasive species populations that will spread to public lands. Failure to control these threats because of the reimbursement requirement results in damage to water supplies used downstream of the private parcels, as well as adjacent public lands. For these reasons, the Department has prioritized watersheds based on resources, rather than landownership because of the widespread public benefits and need to manage areas comprehensively. Furthermore, many fences on private lands protect both private and state lands from hooved animals, so failure to maintain those fence lines will result in damage to state lands. As such, the Department respectfully request that SECTION 2 of this measure be amended to read:

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to be expended on projects undertaken in accordance with watershed management plans, including but not limited to invasive species removal, construction and ongoing maintenance of fences, control of other forest threats, and restoration[+ ~~provided that any new fences constructed shall be on state land only and funds used for maintenance of fences shall be for fences on state lands only. Private land owners shall reimburse the department of land and natural resources for any funds appropriated to the watershed management plans that are used for private lands].~~

PART III

PART III proposes to appropriate funds for the establishment of an emergency environmental workforce to provide short-term employment for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed due to slow economic recovery by assisting the State's efforts to protect watersheds and eradicate invasive species. Watershed protection and related environmental management activities are of utmost priority to the Department, therefore the Department acknowledges the intent of PART III, however, has serious concerns about unintended opportunity costs and thus respectfully opposes PART III.

PART III endeavors to promote economic recovery by employing five hundred to seven hundred fifty individuals on a six-month contract to assist the State's efforts in ongoing environmental protection projects. PART III proposes doing so by redirecting unspecified amounts of special funds away from the Department for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2013.

PART III proposes to appropriate special funds from the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF) which provides support for several vital programs including the Watershed Partnership Program, Natural Area Partnership, Forest Stewardship Program, Youth Conservation Corps, Natural Area Reserves System, management of Forest Reserves, Invasive Species Councils, Endangered Species programs, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. NARF is funded by transfers from the Conveyance Tax (CT), and the CT is seeing a 30% decrease in FY 2012 as compared to FY 2011, thus projected NARF revenues for FY 2013 are much lower than anticipated. Based on the CT decrease, for the first quarter of FY 2013 projected NARF revenue is \$1,271,667, projected NARF personnel expense is \$550,000, and projected NARF operation cost is \$1,750,000. Funding for NARF operations will already be nearly \$1,000,000 less than anticipated, and with approximately half of operation expenses providing salaries for contracted employees, any further loss of funding as proposed by PART III could threaten numerous positions and programs.

PART III also proposes to appropriate from the following funds: The Land Conservation Fund which supports the Legacy Land Conservation Program that provides crucial protection of watersheds and other natural, cultural, and agricultural resources; The Wildlife Resources Fund which provides for the recovery of endangered and threatened species and early detection of harmful invasive species; The Forest Stewardship Fund which supports the Forest Reserve System that hosts over 640,000 acres of the State's most important watersheds and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program that promotes native forest restoration and conservation on degraded agricultural lands; The Water Resource Management Fund which provides essential management of our precious public trust resource; The Special Land and Development Fund which is a crucial source of funds for the abovementioned programs and also provides key support for the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, Division of State Parks, and the Engineering Division, as well as funding for emergency response to natural catastrophe such as fire, rock-fall, flood, earthquake.

PART III could have myriad unintended opportunity costs and negative consequences including threats to already effective watershed projects, the loss of dollars essential for match for federal grants, and potential reduction in staff. Because stripping funds that are critical to maintain an already functioning and successful environmental workforce in order to create a short-term environmental workforce could threaten current watershed projects, implementation of PART III could in actuality contradict its intent.

PART III also proposes to appropriate from the general fund and issue general obligation bonds for environmental protection activities, contingent on release of sixty five percent the previously mentioned Department funds. The Department supports the appropriation of general funds and bonds for watershed protection, yet suggests such not be dependent on redirecting funds away from established Department programs.

~~While the Department acknowledges the intent of PART III to aid economic recovery and~~
promote watershed protection, the Department nonetheless expresses serious concern regarding the consequences of steering funds away from the aforementioned successful Department programs towards short-term projects that lack dedicated funding. For the abovementioned reasons the Department respectfully opposes Part III.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
WILLIAM D. BALFOUR, JR.
SUMNER ERDMAN
LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
NEAL S. FUJWARA
LAWRENCE H. MIKE, M.D., J.D.

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In Consideration of
SENATE BILL 2782, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1,
PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2782, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Proposed House Draft 2 proposes to:

1. Appropriate unspecified funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health in PART I;
2. Statutorily establish the Division of Aquatic Resources within the Department in PART II; and
3. Appropriate unspecified funds for the establishment of an emergency environmental workforce to provide short-term employment for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed due to slow economic recovery by assisting the State's efforts to protect watersheds and eradicate invasive species in PART III.

The Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) testimony is limited to PART 1 and PART III, SECTION 12 of this measure. The Commission supports PART 1 of this bill to protect watersheds and thereby sustain our water supplies. However, the Commission has *serious concerns* about the impact of this measure on the Commission's ability to carry out its public trust duties under the State Water Code and thus respectfully **opposes** PART III, SECTION 12 of this bill.

PART 1

Protection and management of our mauka forested watersheds provides a myriad of public and environmental benefits. Healthy watersheds absorb rainfall and capture fog drip, which increase ground water recharge and help to sustain our drinking water supplies. In addition, fencing out

ungulates and revegetation of denuded areas serve to reduce the soil erosion that degrades stream water quality, pollutes our near-shore environments, and damages our coral reefs. Particularly in the face of climate change, which experts believe will result in a hotter, drier climate, proactive measures to increase the resiliency of our forest resources and water supply is greatly needed.

PART III, SECTION 12

SECTION 12 of Senate Bill 2782, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Proposed House Draft 2. The Proposed House Draft 2 would appropriate out of the Water Resource Management Fund (WRMF) an unspecified amount of funding or so much thereof as may be necessary for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to establish the emergency environmental workforce.

WRMF is critical to support essential positions, programs, and activities of the Commission. The Commission is constitutionally mandated to carry out its public trust duties to protect and manage the fresh water resources of Hawaii.

1. WRMF provides salaries for three key Planning Branch positions: State Drought and Water Conservation Coordinator, Hydrologist VI, and Hydrologist IV. These three positions comprise the entire professional nonsupervisory staff of the Planning Branch, which is responsible for integrating programs to protect, conserve, and manage all waters of the State. The Commission's general fund Personal Services budget is not adequate to pay for these three positions. Past efforts to convert these special-funded personnel to general-funds failed. Future pay raises, adjustments (e.g., reallocations and step movements), and fringe benefit rates for these positions require additional funding. WRMF also funds one-third of a full-time position in the Department's Information Technology Office.

2. WRMF funds critical Commission programs, activities, and priority projects, including: the Rainfall Extremes Study (to assess impacts of climate change on rainfall and drinking water availability), the 20-year Water Use Permit Review, Plant Water Use Estimates for Water Use Permitting, Modified RAM2 for Estimating Sustainable Yields, Implementation of Interim Instream Flow Standards in East Maui, and Surface water use permit processing in the Na Wai Eha (West Maui) proceedings.

3. Due to the limitations of Commission's general fund, WRMF also funds advanced invoice payments for reimbursable federal grant projects and non-federal cost share obligations required under some federal grants. The uncertainty of grant opportunities requires that Commission funding be available in order to qualify for these federal grants. As part of the Program Review, the Commission funded a portion of its annual cooperative agreement with the United States Geological Survey through WRMF funds to address the State's general fund shortfalls.

WRMF funding enables the Commission to implement the State Water Code's requirements by funding personnel, program activities, and projects essential for water resource planning and the mandates of the State Water Code. The Commission has effectively utilized its WRMF to manage our most precious public trust resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012
2:30 P.M.
ROOM 308

SENATE BILL NO. 2782 SD2, HD1, PROPOSED HD2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairpersons Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2782 SD2, HD1, proposed HD2. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests. The department respectfully provides comments and concerns about Part III of the bill.

In Part III, Section 15, money is appropriated out of the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund. Because of the economic downturn in 2009 and resulting shift of positions off of general funds, this special fund is currently funding 62 agriculture inspectors, entomologists, and technicians. The pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund is projected to go negative in 2013 unless some of the 62 positions are transferred back onto general funds. Because of the upcoming termination of 9 Kahului Airport inspectors and the loss of airline inspection fees, if this measure passes, the department will be faced with a reduction-in-force, which may likely lead to limiting port-of-entry clearances for agricultural commodities in neighbor island ports and/or further delays in inspection.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SB 2782 SD2 HD2 Proposed
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
House Committee on Finance

April 3, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** Part I of SB 2782 SD2 HD2 Proposed, which would provide funds to the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests.

Water's importance to the Native Hawaiian people is captured in the 'ōlelo no'ēau "Ola i ka Wai (Water is Life)." Since the beginning of time, ma uka to ma kai stream flow provided sufficient water for food production, drinking water, healthy estuaries, and ground water recharge and proper management of this precious resource was of paramount importance.

Amongst OHA's strategic priorities is 'Āina (Land & Water), which represents OHA's commitment to ensure Native Hawaiian participation in and benefit from responsible stewardship of Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i (the Hawaiian archipelago). Accordingly, OHA advocates for appropriate water management practices that protect the interests of both Native Hawaiians and the larger Hawai'i community. Indeed, access to and proper management of water is necessary for a thriving Native Hawaiian people and heritage. Protecting Hawai'i's forests is one effective management tool.

OHA recognizes that for many, hunting remains an important subsistence practice in the same forests identified as priority watershed protection areas. However current trends, including declining rainfall, reduced stream flow, and increasing air and sea surface temperatures, present a compelling need for protective management of the watershed resources dependent on the forests. DLNR has expressed a commitment to the communities that rely on these forests for subsistence. OHA is open to working with the DLNR and our beneficiaries and believes that a singularly focused plan to coordinate watershed protection projects will allow collaboration for a workable solution to protect all forest resources and uses.

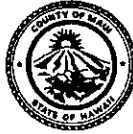
OHA supports the DLNR's efforts to better manage Hawai'i's fresh water resources and agrees that better protection of Hawai'i's watershed forests will ensure access to fresh water for present and future generations. Therefore, OHA

urges the committees to support Part I of SB 2782 SD2 HD2 Proposed. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White




Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

April 2, 2012

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member, East Maui 

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2012

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2782 S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the department of land and natural resources for watershed protection in part I. Establishes statutorily the division of aquatic resources under the department of land and natural resources in part II.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Preservation and expansion of water shed resources are vital to the residents and visitors of the County of Maui. Growth in residential population and visitor accommodations have taken their toll on valuable water resources. The control of invasive species is necessary to maintain our quality of life.
2. Within the County of Maui, millions of dollars have been contributed, both public and private to enhance uplands water shed areas and to address the removal of invasive species. Local governments, non-profits and business interests have taken the initiative to build and preserve water shed resources.
3. The proposed legislation will assist counties with additional revenue to leverage with existing public and private efforts. In Maui County alone, it is estimated that over \$7 billion is necessary to recharge aquifers, improve water quality, climate control and other forest services.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii

Human Resources Department

April 2, 2012

Testimony of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii

OPPOSITION of
S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Before the House Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
April 3, 2012

Committee Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and Committee Members:

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) respectfully submits its testimony **opposing support** of S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1.

The RCUH is prepared to assist the State to employ Hawaii residents economically displaced by our current economic crisis. However, the RCUH is unable to support S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1 due to Part III:

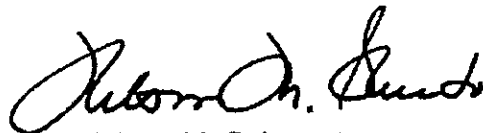
1. Section 8. (1), (2), (3) - The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii cannot be solely responsible for the programmatic and operational aspects of this workforce. The RCUH would need to work collaboratively with agencies including but not limited to the University of Hawaii's Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU), Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), and existing watershed and invasive species programs to execute the broad missions and objectives of this bill.
2. Section 8. (3) – Delete the word "contract". These are not "contract" employees.
3. Section 8. (4) - The RCUH retains its legal services through the State Attorney General's Office.
4. S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1 must provide sufficient funds for logistical support. This must include, but not limited to, supplies, equipment, transportation, and other essential logistics necessary to train, equip and transport these individuals to and from fieldwork.
5. S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1 fails to address the unemployment insurance liability of this short-term employment program. The RCUH is self-insured for its Unemployment Insurance benefits. Accordingly, any short-term employment program will have a detrimental impact on the RCUH's Unemployment Insurance reserve. Therefore, the State must be responsible for any unemployment insurance liability or appropriate sufficient funds to cover the anticipated unemployment insurance liability for any displaced workers once this program ends.

6. S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1 fails to contain key wording: *"These employees will be subject to the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii's (RCUH) policies and procedures relating to employment; except for any applicable Unemployment Insurance benefits, which will be the responsibility of the State of Hawaii."*
7. The RCUH opposes the wording in Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 ("The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii; provided that no moneys shall be expended without the prior approval of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit.") this wording is inconsistent with our business practices. All procurement actions related to this program will be subject to the applicable RCUH policies." All sums appropriated shall be expended consistent with the policies of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.

As previously testified, the RCUH supports the intent of an Emergency Environmental Workforce. However, the funding of such a workforce must not result in diverting State funds away from current watershed protection and invasive species programs. These programs cannot afford to lose any State funding. Current watershed protection and invasive species programs already employ a number of RCUH employees. Diverting funds away from these programs could result in lay-offs of existing staff or severely impact these programs' ability to meet their mission objectives.

Therefore, the RCUH will only support the Emergency Environmental Workforce if these changes we recommend are made to the legislation and current funding for watershed protection and invasive species programs are not diverted to finance S. B. 2782, SD2, HD1.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



Nelson M. Sakamoto
Director of Human Resources

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



April 2, 2012

PETER B. CARLISLE, MAYOR

RANDALL Y. S. CHUNG, Chairman
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DUANE R. MIYASHIRO
ADAM C. WONG

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GLENN M. OKIMOTO, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. HIRAYAMA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
and Members
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

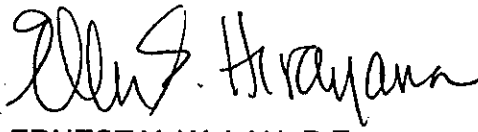
Dear Chair Oshiro and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2782 Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
Relating to Environmental Protection

The Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu (BWS), supports Senate Bill 2782, SD2, HD1, which provides an appropriation to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of priority watersheds that replenishes water supplies. The protection of our forested watersheds will ensure our groundwater supplies will be sustainable for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on Senate Bill 2782, SD2, HD1.

Very truly yours,

for 
ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



Sierra Club

Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803

808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 3, 2012, 4:00 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2782 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club, with 10,000 members and supporters, *opposes* of SB 2782 (SD2 HD1), which would fund an emergency environmental workforce by raiding DLNR's current source of funds.

Although both the environment and economy could use a boost that this bill would represent, we oppose robbing the funding of several important DLNR programs so as to fund this bill.

The State of Hawaii currently funds natural resource protection less per capita then just about any other state. Robbing from Peter to pay Paul does not help protect Hawaii's fragile environment, nor would it necessarily result in an increase in jobs as current staff would be laid off.

Instead, this Committee should look at alternate sources of funding. For example, this Committee has yet to hear SB 2511, which could bring in millions of funding for natural resource protection.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee
Commenting on S.B. 2782 HD2 (Proposed) Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 3, 2012 4:00 PM, Room 308

Part I: Watershed Protection:

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee **strongly supports providing general funds for watershed protection**, including invasive species removal, fencing, and forest restoration. However, we urge you to remove provisions in the bill that prohibit use of these funds on private land or require reimbursement by private landowners. In order to achieve its goal of island-wide eradication of the worst invasive species threatening O'ahu, OISC must work with private landowners. OISC's highest-priority target, *Miconia calvescens*, has a seed dispersal range of 800 meters, meaning that a private landowner could be afflicted with this species through no fault of their own. There is no law that says that landowners must survey for and remove invasive species from their land. If OISC does not survey and remove miconia on private lands, nobody will and we will not be able to eradicate miconia from O'ahu.

Part III: Emergency Environmental Workforce

OISC appreciates the efforts of the legislature to provide the unemployed with income while protecting Hawai'i's unique natural heritage and precious resources. **We are concerned however, that the implementation of an Emergency Environmental Workforce will result in layoffs at OISC and the other organizations that depend on the Natural Area Reserve fund.** HB 2250 appears to drain funds from a number of sources that already support conservation work such as the Natural Area Reserve fund. Without these funds, successful programs will be scrapped.

OISC employs twelve people and we must continually seek funds to support our operations. Our funds have been cut by 65% over the past few years and keeping everyone employed is an annual challenge. The benefits of an Emergency Environmental Workforce will be negated if funds are not available to support the employees implementing good projects right now.

Miconia seeds can last in the soil up to 16 years. Therefore sustainable funding is essential if we are to achieve eradication. We respectfully suggest that a higher return on investment could be made by supporting the efforts of the invasive species committees, watershed partnerships, DLNR and HDOA to employ long-term staff. This would create jobs while making meaningful progress towards conservation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



MISC

MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Senate Bill 2782 SD2 HD2
Before the House Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
April 3, 2012, 4:00PM

S.B. 2872 SD2 HD2 has a number of separate provisions. The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) supports those provisions which will appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of Hawaii's forested watersheds. Our native forests provide life-giving waters for human consumption and are home to plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Healthy forests mean healthy reefs. Hundreds of studies have documented the damage caused by invasive plants and animals. Research has shown that invasive plants consume significantly more water than our native koa-'ōhi'a complex. Monotypic forests result in increased sedimentation threatening our precious coral reef ecosystems. We have seen the impacts of miconia elsewhere in the world. We do not need to repeat the unintentional experiment.

MISC has no comment on the issue of statutorily creating a separate Division of Aquatic Resources. DAR has played a critical role in protecting our streams and marine waters and we support continued funding to ensure that function is maintained and strengthened.

Regarding creation of an emergency environmental workforce, MISC has the following comments. Creation of a short-term environmental workforce could provide much-needed employment opportunities while also addressing environmental threats. Of considerable concern is the fact that the sources of funding identified to implement this measure (e.g., Natural Area Reserve Fund, Legacy Land Fund) currently provide essential support for ongoing environmental protection activities within the State, including funding for Watershed Partnerships (WPs) and Invasive Species Committees (ISCs), and acquisition of important conservation lands. Another funding source that would be tapped for the environmental workforce supports pest inspection and quarantine work by the Department of Agriculture, even though current staffing levels for agricultural inspectors are inadequate.

State funding for the WPs and ISCs decreased by 60% during the economic downturn and has yet to be restored. If this measure directs funds away from existing programs, the benefit of short-term positions could come at significant cost to current, functioning programs. Since these programs would likely be the very ones tapped to train and manage the temporary positions, the bill should be amended to support retention or addition of longer-term positions within the Watershed Partnerships and Invasive Species Committees. Furthermore, the ability to achieve meaningful results will require support for more than just physical labor. Funds will be needed for transportation, herbicides, safety gear, fencing, helicopter time, etc. Projects will need flexibility to use funding for ancillary aspects of project management. The measure should be amended to ensure that a large labor force isn't created without adequate support to actually accomplish meaningful work.

Thank you for your consideration and for your kōkua.

Teya M. Penniman
Manager

P.O. Box 983, Makawao, HI 96768
Phone: (808) 573-MISC (6472) • Fax: (808) 573-6475
Email: misc@hawaii.edu • Website: <http://www.mauisc.org>

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Commenting on S.B. 2782 HD2 (Proposed) Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 4:00PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy provides the following comments on S.B. 2782 HD2 (Proposed):

PART I: Watershed Protection

We **strongly support** providing general funds for watershed protection, including invasive species removal, fencing, and forest restoration. However, we urge you to remove provisions in the bill that prohibit use of these funds on private lands or require reimbursement by private landowners. Watershed protection and invasive species initiatives in Hawai'i are voluntary partnerships that we ask private landowners to join for the benefit of the general public. These landowners receive no financial gain, but grant access to their lands and provide other direct and in-kind support to ensure that these resources are managed for the benefit of all of us. *Prohibiting funds to be spent on fencing on private land or, even worse, requiring private landowners to reimburse the State for watershed protection work is the surest way to get them to leave these partnerships and prohibit critical access to their lands.*

PART II: Aquatic Resources

We take **no position** on the provisions to statutorily require the establishment of a separate Division of Aquatic Resources within the DLNR.

PART III: Emergency Environmental Workforce

We agree that there could be a lot of good work done by a short-term Emergency Environmental Workforce (EEWF). However, **please do not redirect DLNR and DOA funds such that permanent, professional staff must be terminated only to be replaced by temporary workers.** We recommend that the Legislature ensure that our existing environmental workforce of DLNR, DOA, DOH, Invasive Species Committee, and Watershed Partnership programs are also healthy, well-staffed and reasonably funded. Many of these programs have seen their State funds reduced by 50-60% since 2008. These existing programs are the foundation of our state's environmental protection and natural resource management efforts; they are the current first-responders to environmental emergencies, and, they will likely be the ones called upon to train and supervise any temporary emergency workforce.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
REGARDING SB 2782 SD 2, HD 1 (PROPOSED HD 2) RELATING
TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 4:00 p.m., Room 308

The Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program has the following comments with regarding SB 2782 SD 2, HD1 (proposed HD 2) relating to environmental protection:

Part I: The Trust for Public Land supports appropriating general funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resource's "Rain Follows The Forest" initiative. Our watersheds need appropriate management and protection to produce the clean drinking water of the quality and quantity needed now and in our near future.

Part II: The Trust for Public Land takes no position regarding the establishment of a Division of Aquatic Resources within the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Part III: While the Trust for Public Land notes that the bill's intent to create "green jobs" is laudable, the strategy of diverting needed funds from important and long-standing environmental programs and work is severely flawed. The bill proposes to create a short-term environmental workforce by diverting monies from the special land and development fund, the forest and wildlife resources fund, the land conservation fund, the water resource management fund, the natural area reserve fund, the forest stewardship fund, the pest, inspection, quarantine and eradication fund, and the general fund. All of the special funds support important conservation work -- in many cases, the same kind of conservation work envisioned for the environmental work force. The bill may have the unintended consequence of taking away desperately needed funding from trained staff who perform core conservation work and divert it to new short-term personnel who will need weeks, if not months of training, and who will likely leave conservation work when their six month contract is completed. In the meantime, the essential conservation work performed by the trained personnel in these existing programs will be un-funded or under-funded. Although the bill is intended to have positive conservation effects, the bill may in fact undermine the Department's long-term conservation efforts in the name of temporary job creation.

In addition, many of these programs receive significant matching federal or private funds -- funds that would be lost if the programs are cut. For example, the forest stewardship fund provides matching dollars to private landowners to perform the same types of conservation work that the environmental workforce may perform (e.g., fencing, invasive species control, forest restoration). These landowners, using their own private monies or resources, receive matching state funds to employ workers to perform conservation work. The State benefits since forests are protected, and the same conservation work is

accomplished at half or less than what it might normally cost to accomplish the same work leveraging private sources.

Likewise, the land conservation fund, known as the Legacy Land Conservation Program, has benefited from substantial federal, county, and private matching funds that would be lost without state funding. For example, the State's recent expansion of the Lapakahi State Historical Park in 2011 was funded by matching funds from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program (the #1 project in the nation competing among 57 projects) -- saving the State over \$1.1 million. Without the land conservation fund, opportunities like this one would be lost.

In short, Part III of the bill may result in many unintended consequences that would undermine rather than support Hawai'i's long-term conservation efforts.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -



Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
1136 Union Mall, Suite 202
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Testimony Submitted to the House Finance Committee

Hearing: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

In Partial Support of SB 2782 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawaii supports Part I of SB 2782 SD 2 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect priority watersheds. Our native forests provide essential watershed areas that replenish our freshwater supply. Funding is needed to protect these forests and actively manage them for watershed, habitat, cultural, and other values. Sadly, much of our native forest has been destroyed by invasive species.

Regarding Part III, rather than create an emergency work force, we support adequate funding for agricultural inspectors at our ports of entry, permanent positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources, adequate funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, adequate funding for the island Invasive Species Committees, and adequate funding for the watershed partnerships. Existing programs are tried and successful, but they are limited in funding.

State funding for the watershed initiative will leverage others sources of funding and support effective public-private partnerships already in place to protect native forests and the native species they support. A dedicated source of funding will also be needed.

Water is life. This is one of the most important things you, our elected officials, can do to protect water for our people and generations to come. Please support Part I of SB 2782 SD 2 HD 1, and protect our watersheds and freshwater supply.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawaii's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawaii no na holoholona Iohiu

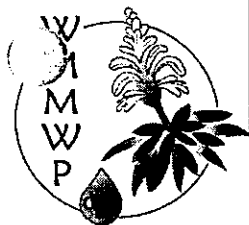
Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Springer * Vice-President: Julie Leialoha * Treasurer: Rick Barboza * Secretary: Maka'ala Ka'aumoana

Directors: Lida Pigott Burney * Koalani Kaulukukui * Robin Kaye

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources
Ma'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc
Wailuku Water Co.
LLC
The Nature
Conservancy

West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

April 2, 2012

Commenting on S.B. 2782 HD2 (Proposed) Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 4:00PM, Room 308

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership **Strongly Supports SB 2782 HD2 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs.** Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause. We take **no position on Part Two** of this bill relating to the merger of DAR and DOFAW and respectfully suggest that funds for **Part Three not be redirected for emergency workforce purposes from funds used by employ highly trained and current staff of DLNR and DOA.**

Part one of the proposed bill would allow for resource management to be increased, reverse the degradation of additional forests resources, and further secure the water resources that our state depends on for residential, agricultural and commercial use. Funding will also be leveraged with federal, county, or private grant sources to further stimulate local economies, **bring in millions of outside dollars and provide more jobs.**

As a partnership and as individual entities, we understand that the roots of our success has been built upon the waters which flow from our forests. Without the forest we cannot depend on the water which nourishes our personal and economic interests and understand the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Our forefathers recognized this need and we need to echo that wisdom now that the demand for water resources is increasing and supply is decreasing.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests. We hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection.

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator



GLOBAL
ISLAND
PARTNERSHIP

**Testimony of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative
Commenting on SB 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection**

House Committee on Finance

Public Hearing on 3 April 2012 4:00pm, Room 308

Audrey Newman
Hawaii Green Growth Initiative
P.O. Box 535
Hoolehua, Hawai'i 96729

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG). HGG brings leaders from the energy, food and environmental sectors together to achieve Hawaii's sustainability goals and to be a model for building a green economy. Our members and advisors include more than 50 leaders from government, private, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i.

Part I: Watersheds are critical to the long-term sustainability of our island economy, culture and environment. Protecting our watersheds helps insure a regenerative and stable source of fresh water for agriculture, people, power and other uses across the state. **HGG strongly supports providing general funds for watershed protection.** However, HGG urges you to remove provisions in the bill that prohibit use of these funds on private lands or require reimbursement by private landowners. Watershed protection and invasive species initiatives in Hawai'i are voluntary partnerships. Private landowners join for the benefit of the general public. These landowners receive no financial gain, but grant access to their lands and provide other direct and in-kind support to ensure that these resources are managed for the benefit of all of us.

Part II: HGG takes **no position** on the provisions to statutorily require the establishment of a separate Division of Aquatic Resources within the DLNR.

Part III: HGG agrees that there could be a lot of good work done by a short-term Emergency Environmental Workforce (EEWF). However, **please do not redirect DLNR and DOA funds such that permanent, professional staff must be terminated only to be replaced by temporary workers.** We recommend that the Legislature ensure that our existing environmental workforce of DLNR, DOA, DOH, Invasive Species Committee, and Watershed Partnership programs are also healthy, well-staffed and reasonably funded. These existing programs are the foundation of our state's environmental protection and natural resource management efforts; they are the current first-responders to environmental emergencies; and, they will likely be the ones called upon to train and supervise any temporary emergency workforce.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Error!

Audrey Newman, Senior Advisor, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

Promoting action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. www.glispa.org





House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 3, 2012
4:00 p.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony and Comments on SB 2782 SD2 HD1 (and Proposed HD2)

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports Part I, of the proposed SB 2782 SD2 HD2 (and HD1),** *Relating to environmental protection*, which would provide critical funding for watershed protection. Watershed protection has been chronically-underfunded for decades.

CGAPS has **no opinion on the proposed Part II**, relating to the Division of Aquatic Resources.

CGAPS **opposes the proposed Part III**, the establishment of an Emergency Environmental Workforce for the following reasons:

1. The Natural Area Reserve fund, Forest Stewardship fund, and the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication fund are the sources of funding for our existing environmental workforce. The majority of Ag inspectors at ports, to Watershed Partnership fence crews, Invasive Species Committee field crews, and even the Aquatic Invasive Species Team are funded via these special funds. They have a balance because that is what is being drawn from to support staff and operations from paycheck to paycheck. Re-allocating these funds would cripple the functions of these agencies/NGOs, making it impossible to supervise EEWF staff.
2. Further, the re-allocation of money from the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication fund could result in the delayed release of imported goods and food, as HDOA inspectors must still inspect imported goods for pests.

CGAPS appreciates the intention to employ 500-700 people for six months in this difficult economy, and the recognition that environmental work is a worthy and necessary occupation. We would support this section of the bill if the project took a more holistic, longer-term approach to protecting the environment from invasive species.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Ph: (808) 722-0995

Mauna Kea Recreational Users Group

Public Land for Public Use

447 Kalanianaʻole Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

contact@maunakearug.com

CHAIRMAN
Wayne Blyth

COMMITTEES

Bob Duerr
Fishing

Matt Hoeflinger
Hunting

Nani Pogline
Hiking

Chris Seymour
Bicycling

Dennis Viera
OHV

Pat Reppun
Equestrian

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Big Island Gun Dogs

Hawaii Hunting Association

Pig Hunters of Hawaii

Rock Island Riders

Big Island
Mountain Bike Association

State House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 03, 2012

4:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

Testimony in opposition to SB2782 SD 2 HD 1

The Mauna Kea Recreational Users group was organized in 2009 as a means of uniting various users of public lands, to serve as a clearing house of actual and potential conflicts between recreational user activities, and to identify interests that all have in common. MKRUG works to promote the right of access to and responsible use of public lands.

In recent years people have seen an erosion of access and use of public lands. Specifically hunters have seen the eradication of game animals from Mauna Kea and recently an apparent all out war against the wild pua'a (pig). There seems to be a constant stream of 'environmental preservation' initiatives being proposed by all levels of government. These initiatives seem to have one thing in common; loss of public access rights through land closure, fencing, and wild game eradication.

The Hawaii State Legislature is presently considering many bills relating to 'environmental protection' that are of concern to the people. The legislative process as it is practiced today denies access to participation by most of Hawaii's people due to time, technology, financial or geographic barriers. There is a growing distrust of government agencies and elected representatives in the management of public lands. It seems that our government agencies and elected representatives have forgotten that the State is the steward of the lands, not their owner. These lands are owned by the public. The public needs to participate in decisions affecting the management of their lands.

MKRUG hosted a "People's Hearing: Hunting" on February 25 in Hilo. Invited guests included all Big Island legislators. We are grateful that with very short notice Representatives Chang and Tsuji were able to attend. In spite of only days notice and three conflicting events that day, over two hundred concerned hunters showed up to demonstrate their concerns.

"The Rain follows the Forest" is simply a very expensive public relations campaign to justify a money grab by DLNR. This propaganda campaign included glossy paper brochures, white papers and a ½ hour television program aired state-wide to convince the public and the legislature that there is impending doom for our water resources if we don't act now.

There is no impending doom. Damage to the forests is nothing new. While Hawaii was still a kingdom there was talk about hooved animals damaging the forests. In well over a hundred years our forests have not disappeared. Game management and control is the answer, not eradication.

The management goals for Hawaii island Forest reserve system are stated as:

- To construct, restore and maintain roads and trails.
- To provide public recreation and hunting opportunities.
- To increase and maintain public access to forest reserves

Have these goals being met? We think not.

The 10% "protected" watershed potentially increased to 20% over ten years will not save our watersheds. These protection programs take the most accessible lands for preservation leaving the remaining forests inaccessible for public hunting to control the game population. DLNR has never had an effective game management strategy.

A recent study using remote imagery to monitor plant recovery in two fenced plots at Pohakuloa Training area on the big island over a 9-1/2 year period showed that removal of ungulates increased the spread of invasive species plants in the ungulate free plot. This study indicates that animals have a role to play in protecting and restoring our watersheds. Where are the studies measuring the effectiveness of the eradication program in the already "protected" watershed areas?

As usual the "devil is in the details". The "Rain follows the Forest Action Plan" The management plan calls for all ungulate removal and elimination of invasive plant species by use of herbicides and other poisons. For example, at Puu Makaala the State estimates that 10% of the forest area is invasive weeds. That means that 600 acres of watershed will be need to be poisoned to control the weed take over. Some people have mentioned animals defecating in the watershed, would we prefer that we poison our watershed instead?

In short we ask that you defer action on SB2782 until a workable plan to manage our rain-forest watersheds can be had with proper input from the hunting public that we depend upon to manage our game populations.

Wayne Blyth
Chair

**SB 2782 SD2 HD1 (PROPOSED HD2)
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO
MANAGER – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

APRIL 3, 2012

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and its agricultural company Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company on SB 2782 SD2 HD1 (Proposed HD2), "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION." We support the general intent of the provisions in this bill to provide additional funding to maintain and protect Hawaii's watersheds.

Hawaii's eleven watershed partnerships provide the general framework for large-scale watershed protection. These voluntary alliances of public and private landowners and managers cooperatively work together to protect over two million acres of forests that supply hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh water in Hawaii every year. Working across ownership boundaries, these partnerships leverage State efforts, pool funding, and provide a diverse range of local employment opportunities. Alexander & Baldwin is an active participant in three of Hawaii's watershed partnerships, the East Maui Watershed Partnership, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, and the Kauai Watershed Alliance.

In addition to being a primary source of our fresh water, Hawaii's watersheds also provide several other benefits. Without a healthy watershed to anchor the soil and

temper the erosion from heavy rain, large amounts of sediment would wash off the mountain slopes and into the ocean. Watersheds also absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide, reducing Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions. These watershed resources are integral in providing much needed water to sustain our island community into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

Members

Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety
Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural
Resources
Kamehameha Schools
National Park Service
The Nature Conservancy
US Fish & Wildlife Service
USDA Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Natural Resources Conservation Service

PO Box 52 • Hawai'i National Park, HI • 96718 • Ph 808.985.6197 • FX 808.985.6029

Testimony of the Three Mountain Alliance
Commenting on S.B. 2782 HD2 (Proposed) Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 4:00PM, Room 308

PART I: Watershed Protection

Regarding watershed protection, The Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) Watershed Partnership **strongly supports** the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative as outlined in Part I of S.B. 2782 HD2 (Proposed) including invasive species removal, fencing, and forest restoration. The largest Watershed Partnership in the state, the Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) was formed in 2007 and covers 1,116,300 acres on the Island of Hawaii. With 9 partners (private, federal, and state), the overall goal of the Three Mountain Alliance is to sustain the multiple ecosystem benefits of the three mountains of Kīlauea, Mauna Loa, and Hualālai by collaborating to manage its watershed areas, native habitats and species, historical, cultural, and socio-economic resources for all. **We urge you to remove provisions in the bill that prohibit use of these funds on private lands or require reimbursement by private landowners.** The point of these partnerships is to manage our collective, irreplaceable, natural assets across ownership boundaries benefiting all of Hawai'i's citizens and visitors. The proposed provisions could severely hamper our efforts to work together. Our partnership was recognized nationally in 2009 as a model for collaboration, being awarded the U.S. Department of Interior's "*Partners in Conservation Award*". Maintaining the spirit of these partnerships will be critical if we are expected to protect our resources for future generations.

PART II: Aquatic Resources

We take **no position** on the provisions to statutorily require the establishment of a separate Division of Aquatic Resources within the DLNR.

PART III: Emergency Environmental Workforce

We agree that there could be a lot of good work done by a short-term Emergency Environmental Workforce (EEWF). However, **please do not redirect DLNR and DOA funds such that permanent, professional staff must be terminated only to be replaced by temporary workers.** We recommend that the Legislature ensure that our existing environmental workforce of DLNR, DOA, DOH, Invasive Species Committee, and Watershed Partnership programs are also healthy, well-staffed and reasonably funded. Many of these programs have seen their State funds reduced by 50-60% since 2008. These existing programs are the foundation of our state's environmental protection and natural resource management efforts; they are the current first-responders to environmental emergencies; and, they will likely be the ones called upon to train and supervise any temporary emergency workforce.

Thank you for taking our testimony in to consideration.

The TMA Executive Committee

Testimony on **SB 2782 SD2 HD2**, 2APR2012

Chairman Oshiro and Committee Members:

SB 2782 SD2 HD2 needs major surgery, order to be worthy and worth passing. It should go back to the carefully crafted original Senate version of text, which simply addressed the dire maintenance needs of Hawaii's watersheds. The future continuance of Hawaii's water supplies tomorrow are dependent upon overdue management needs that have to be addressed today. **Part I** of this bill makes a start to address those needs, as urgent as any transportation or other infrastructure needs. For the first time in decades, the state administration has set forth a cogent plan to address these needs and to request funding necessary to do so. The initial funding level of \$11 million should be restored in the bill and passed on for final approvals. This will have the added economic effects provided by 150 new jobs. **This essential Part I needs to be passed by itself, and adequate funding as originally envisioned needs to be restored to the bill. Please do so.**

Part II of this bill, a recent addition, is an administrative direction relating to another part of DLNR and is unrelated to the initial subject matter and title of the bill. It should be removed from this bill and placed where appropriate or deferred. I have no opinion here as to Section II's merits on its own. Certainly other dormant bills could provide the vehicle for its intent.

Part III of this last draft of SB2782 runs counter to the intent of the bill and should be removed in total. The natural resources of Hawaii have long been neglected, and additional manpower and funds are direly needed to protect watersheds, to prevent additional invasive species from entering or spreading through the islands, and to combat some of the worst of the established invasions. Such workers that are active now in these arenas, and additional workers that are also needed all require levels of special skills and motivation generally not found in the unemployed work force as targeted by Part III. To replace skilled workers with short term make-work projects undermines the outcomes of their efforts, and to compete with their funding sources adds additional disservice. If a make-work jobs bill is desired, SB2782 is not the proper venue, and Part III is really counter-productive. **Please remove Part III from SB2782.**

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Rick Warshauer, Volcano

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 5:15 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bsager42@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Bill Sager
Organization: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party
E-mail: bsager42@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

HD2 amends SB 2782 to fund the Governor's Watershed Initiative by robbing other severely underfunded conservation programs.

This is the perfect example of the fun and games that goes on at the legislature to turn a good bill bad.

The Governor's Watershed Initiative is a good program. Funding it by curtailing other important conservation programs is a bad idea.

Support SB2782, but oppose HD2

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 7:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nsakamoto@rcuh.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Nelson Sakamoto
Organization: Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii
E-mail: nsakamoto@rcuh.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 8:27 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hogdog44@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dominic Souza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hogdog44@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/3/2012

Comments:

There really needs to be more discussion on this matter. There is a lot of misinformation and half truths by those who support this bill. The facts need to be known instead of doing something without all the available information and could possibly be more of a detriment to the watershed we are trying to protect. Please dont pass this bill without further research and knowledge. I would also like to add an excerpt from the last hearings committee report:

Your Committees recognize that there are traditional and customary rights provided to Hawaii's indigenous people pursuant to article XII, section 7 of the Hawaii State Constitution; section 1-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and the holding in Public Access Shoreline Hawaii v. Hawaii County Planning Commission, 79 Haw. 425 (1995), and to the extent that any part of the watershed management plan impedes upon any of these rights, your Committees find that those parts of the watershed management plan shall be void.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony regarding this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic Souza

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2012 2:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rnvfishing@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roy N. Morioka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rnvfishing@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2012

Comments:
Chair Oshiro, Voice Chair Lee and Members:

No comment on PART I; Strong support for PART II.

Mahalo!
Roy Morioka

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 11:51 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia K.L. Rezendes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rezentesc@aol.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed amendments to this bill in the form of an HD2 which removes funding from already underfunded efforts such as; the special land and development fund, the forest and wildlife resources fund, the land conservation fund, the water resource management fund, the natural area reserve fund, the forest stewardship fund, and the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund.

While there is clearly overlap in some of the efforts being made in all of these funded areas, raiding these funds to establish an emergency environmental workforce will clearly effect other aspects of the proposed efforts to increase efforts to acquire additional watershed lands, i.e. the legacy conservation fund has assisted DLNR in acquiring watershed lands and can continue to do so if not raided for other purposes.

It is imperative that all the funds identified are reviewed to determine if they will even survive and continue to provide continued employment for current employees or if you will be trading one person's job for another person's unemployment.

Please do not raid the funds identified in the guise of establishing an emergency environmental workforce that may divert efforts to manage this program versus continuing to allow efforts already underway to continue.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezendes
Wai`anae Coast Resident

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 7:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: silas77@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/3/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Silas Haglund
Organization: Individual
E-mail: silas77@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:
Please do everything in your power to protect Hawaii's waters and forests.